

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112312
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY IO:GBHELMAN:MR
APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
AF:DKPETTERSON
EUR:RWOODS

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O R 030057Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

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PAGE 02 STATE 112312

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA NEGOTIATIONS

1. AT MONTHLY LUNCHEON OF NORDIC EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON
(AT DCM LEVEL), DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) HELMAN
TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF ON STATUS OF NAMIBIA
NEGOTIATIONS. HE DESCRIBED THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS,
SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE, THE CURRENT STATE OF TALKS

IN NEW YORK, AND PLANS FOR DISCUSSIONS BEGINNING MAY 5 BETWEEN THE CONTACT GROUP AND A SWAPO DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDES MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FROM LUSAKA. THE CONTACT GROUP DID NOT INTEND TO REOPEN THE PROPOSAL TO RENEGOTIATION, BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATIONS.

2. HELMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE NOW AT A CRITICAL STAGE, AND THE UN HAD A SPECIAL ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER. IF THE CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS DO NOT SUCCEED, AND IF SWAPO DOES NOT JOIN SOUTH AFRICA IN ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE UN WOULD FIND ITSELF AGAIN IN A POSITION TO ARRANGE FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF NAMIBIA TO INDEPENDENCE. MOREOVER, SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSAL COULD

HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN QUESTION AND COULD ESTABLISH A RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH IN ITSELF COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANCE FOR OTHER PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. WITH THAT AS BACKGROUND, HELMAN URGED NORDIC GOVERNMENTS TO USE THEIR VERY SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE
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PAGE 03 STATE 112312

WITH SWAPO TO ACCEPT THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSAL. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS COULD REASSURE SWAPO BY POINTING OUT TO ITS LEADERSHIP THAT:

- THE INTRODUCTION OF UN FORCES INTO NAMIBIA WOULD BY THAT VERY FACT RESULT IN A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY. THERE WOULD BE NO TURNING BACK ONCE THAT HAPPENS.

- THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD ASSERT THEMSELVES TO ASSURE A FULLY EFFECTIVE UN PRESENCE, INCLUDING A MILITARY PRESENCE, AND THEMSELVES WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT EXTENSIVELY THE UN OPERATION.

4. FINALLY, HELMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE NORDICS, TO EMPHASIZE THEIR CONCERN, POINT OUT TO SWAPO THAT THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA IS SUCH THAT THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL MUST NOT BE LOST; CONSEQUENTLY THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD SUPPORT THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL EVEN THOUGH SWAPO FAILS TO DO SO.

5. FOR ACTION ADDRESSEES: WASHINGTON EMBASSIES WILL
BE REPORTING HELMAN'S PRESENTATION. YOU SHOULD FIND
EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE FOREGOING POINTS WITH
FOREIGN MINISTRIES.

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